Effect of price control on quality of drugs

483. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Health and Family Welfare asked Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to reduce the number of drugs under price control to encourage Pharmaceutical industry;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers thereon;

(c) whether price control of essential drugs will impact their quality and availability?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a), as above.

(c) Price Control is not the sole criteria which will impact quality and availability of drugs. There are several other important factors, which guide the quality and availability of drugs, like product acceptability, demand and supply economics, availability of better substitutes, technology status etc.

Profits of Pharma Companies

484. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have evaluated the modus operandi of profits of Pharma Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure essential medicines for poor at affordable prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a), as above.

(c) to (e) The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality at reasonable prices. The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control. Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves, however, the Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. This power of Government applies to Patented medicines as well.

Prices of medicines

485. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has revised the prices of certain medicine and drugs after the new excise norms;

(b) if so, whether prices of over the board medicines will go up; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has not revised the prices of any scheduled formulation after allowing the abatement on retail price for levy of excise duty by Ministry of Finance on 8.1.2005. The prices of scheduled formulations are not likely to go up due to this change.

Demand of urea in Bihar

†486. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a demand of urea and DAP fertilizers in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the quantum of fertilizers demanded and supplied during the last two years; in Bihar, district-wise?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.